



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

# Public Health

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November 1, 2011

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **PRELIMINARY REPORT ON MID-YEAR REVIEW OF PUBLIC HEALTH FEES FOR FY 2011-12**

On August 2, 2011, the Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance revising public health permit and service fees for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-12. On motion of Supervisor Knabe, the Board also instructed the Director of the Department Public Health (DPH) to continue to evaluate fee-related issues in consultation with the industries, and to report back to the Board in six months. Although we are scheduled to provide this report in January 2012, the purpose of this memorandum is to provide your Board with our preliminary findings.

In response to Supervisor Knabe's Motion and the related motion by Supervisor Yaroslavsky on improvements in service quality, DPH has continued discussions directly with permit holders, as well as several industry associations including the California Restaurant Association, the Southern California Mobile Food Vendors, the Food Industry Business Roundtable, the Motion Picture and Television Mobile Catering Organization, members of the food vending machine industry, and the managers of Certified Farmers' Markets.

With regard to the review of permit and service fees, based upon comments from various stakeholders, and as a result of independent internal efforts currently underway, we have identified nine service categories to date that warrant changes in our existing business practices. These changes may result in a decrease in certain fees, as described more fully below, and we are currently working with County Counsel and the Treasurer-Tax Collector to determine the appropriate mechanism to adjust fees. The

time frame for Board consideration of the recommended adjustments is in early 2012. The following is a listing of the fee areas under review:

1. *Food Carts Offering Low Risk / Prepackaged Foods*

The DPH inspection of prepackaged food carts, including ice cream carts have historically included two inspections. The first involves an equipment inspection that takes place at the commissary where the cart is stored. The second is an inspection in the field to ensure the cart is operated in compliance with State law. We believe it is appropriate to consolidate these two inspections in order to increase efficiency. This action would result in a reduction in the current fee.

2. *Dry Cleaners with Conventional Washing Machines*

Dry cleaners are regulated by the County Fire Department, but typically have one or more conventional washing machines that require a separate inspection by DPH. Currently, the public health fee is based on the size of the entire dry cleaning facility. Our review suggests it may be more equitable to base the fee on the number of washing machines rather than total square footage of the facility. This would result in a reduction in fees for some permit holders.

3. *Wholesale Food Processors Handling Low Risk Foods*

Wholesale food processors typically require three inspections per year due to complexity and relatively high food safety risks. However some food processors solely handle low risk foods that only require one or two inspections per year. This modification would also result in a reduction in fees for this subgroup of wholesale food processors.

4. *Sewage Pumper Trucks*

Sewage pumper trucks are typically inspected in remote locations that requires substantial drive time for DPH staff. These inspections could be more efficient if arrangements were made with operators to conduct the inspections at defined, more centralized locations. This would result in a fee reduction.

5. *Independent Wholesale Delivery Vehicles*

Operators of independent wholesale delivery vehicles who pick up produce, milk or dairy products from a licensed processor or warehouse and deliver to retail outlets warrant one inspection per year, rather than the two inspections currently provided to low risk retail food trucks. This would result in a fee reduction.

6. *Day Care Centers*

Day care centers are under the jurisdiction of the State and are not subject to local regulation. Nevertheless, these facilities have historically been inspected by DPH. After review, we believe these facilities should be removed from our inspection inventory and the corresponding permit fee category deleted.

7. *Miscellaneous Categories*

Between now and the end of the year, DPH will review the scope of work and business practices related to independent retail milk delivery vehicles, personal hawkers, and plan review of onsite wastewater treatment systems. In addition, our review may identify other services warranting a change.

Attached is a chart showing the universe of permits by fee category under review.

If you should have any questions or would like more information, please let me know.

JEF:jt

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Environmental Health Fee Categories Under Review**  
October 2011

<b>Category</b>	<b>Estimated # of Permits</b>	<b>Fee Approved for FY 2011-12</b>
Food Carts Offering Low Risk / Prepackaged Foods	1,200	\$602
Dry Cleaners with Conventional Washing Machines	500	\$519 - \$671
Wholesale Food Processors Handling Low Risk Foods	50	\$2,000 - \$2,624
Sewage Pumper Trucks	500	\$422
Independent Wholesale Delivery Vehicles	200	\$602
Day Care Centers	750	\$454 - \$541
Personal Hawker	3	\$863
Independent Milk Retail Delivery Vehicles	6	\$602
Onsite Waste Water Treatment Systems Plan Review	500	\$365 - \$454